

June 1, 2007

I would like to invite classrooms around the United States to join me on **Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. EST** for a Congressional hearing on the human rights situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, and how the upcoming 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, may be an opportunity to spur greater international action. The entire hearing can be watched online at: (
<http://nationalsecurity.oversight.house.gov>
).

Appearing at the hearing will be Olympic athletes – including U.S. gold medalist Joey Cheek – a Darfur refugee, and two high school students who successfully raised awareness and over \$300,000 to help the people in Darfur. We hope more students learn about Darfur by watching the hearing and come up with their

own creative ideas to help.

Some 400,000 people in Darfur have been killed and another 2.5 million have been uprooted from their homes. This is a horrific international tragedy, and we must all do everything we can to put an end to the violence and suffering there.

As its largest trade partner, China has tremendous influence on the Sudanese regime, but thus far has been

hesitant to do more to help in Darfur. The United States and other countries also could be doing more, especially by acting in a coordinated way.

This hearing will tap into the Olympic spirit – all nations and peoples of the world cooperating in peaceful pursuit – as a call for all countries (including the U.S.

and China) to come together to help the people in Darfur. Much of the responsibility for these atrocities lies squarely with the leaders in Sudan, and we will ask what more can be done, especially about the need for a united world front to pressure the Sudanese regime.

I hope this hearing will help persuade China, the U.S., and all countries of the world to live up to the 2008 Olympic theme, “One World, One Dream” and to help put an end to the tragic events in Darfur.

We will hear from the following witnesses:

- **Joey Cheek**
(American Olympic Gold Medalist speedskater) and **Tegla Loroupe**
(Kenyan Olympic

distance runner and world record holder). Both have traveled to Darfur and have led efforts to bring attention to the suffering there.

· **Nick Anderson**

and

Ana Slavin

, Massachusetts high school students and founders of the “Dollars for Darfur” online campaign on MySpace and Facebook that has

raised over
\$300,000.

- **Daoud Ibrahaem Hari**, a former Darfur refugee and interpreter who was taken hostage in

the conflict.

- Foreign policy and humanitarian crisis experts to explore solutions to the crisis.

I hope you will
join me for this
extremely
important public
discussion.

Documents and Links

- [Chairman
Tierney's
Invitation to
Students to
Watch the](#)

Hearing